

TOP SECRET

10 January 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

25X1A

SUBJECT: Trip Report --

-- 2-8 January

1. On Friday, 3 January 1958, [redacted] began a day and a half tour of SAC Headquarters with particular emphasis on the electronic intelligence and photo intelligence sections. Monday and Tuesday, 6 and 7 January, were spent at ATIC for the same purpose. The reason for the tour was explained as a staff visit and both visits were felt to have been well-received.

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2. The following impressions and points of interest are given below.

a. Both at SAC Headquarters and ATIC, Project materials were handled very securely in vaulted areas. Each area was labelled "Special Projects" with the implied impression on the plural, and each vaulted area has a Special Projects Officer responsible for security procedures and handling.

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c. SAC and ATIC feel that our Project ELINT collection effort is not being fully exploited due to our weak read out capability. A full scale ELINT operation would undoubtedly saturate the analysis function throughout the intelligence community. We have much the same feeling and this point is again brought to the forefront as one of our weakest areas.

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DOUGLAS STENO
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BY: 104702

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(1) An impression was gained from SAC and ATIC comments that Systems I and VI were considered only activity indicators. This feeling persists because these systems are crystal video equipment with only very broad frequency discrimination, and just a medium capability for capturing all pulse parameters on the tape. It was clearly pointed out to SAC and ATIC that these facts are and have been fully realized from the start and are the necessary results of a system designed for very small cube and weight and 8 - 10 hours of recording time. A strong plea was made by SAC and ATIC to make full use of filters to allow specific search in small areas of the frequency spectrum. They were informed that filters are being designed to give us this capability to a limited degree.

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g. A visit with Col. Smith of SAC Headquarters reaffirmed intelligence estimates now held at Project Headquarters from various sources. Briefly, he considers the next 6 - 8 months relatively safe for operations unless we fly over missile sites. He believes the Soviets will have a considerably increased capability by late summer 1958. After that time, our aircraft could still be utilized but only with increased risk (but still within accepted military limits) and with comprehensive diversionary tactics employed.

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3. It was felt that both staff visits were extremely helpful in providing mutual understanding of each other's problems. Everyone appeared most anxious to express his praise for the Project and offer unstintingly of his support, if needed. The personal contacts established in ATIC might prove particularly helpful in the future.

4. Recommendation:

a. It is recommended that a study be made of the feasibility and/or desirability of developing a small light weight receiver capable of recording

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[redacted] and that it be developed either on a crash basis for use in the forthcoming reconnaissance season or on a more leisurely R & D basis for distant future utilization.

b. It is also recommended that periodic staff visits of the type herewith being reported be encouraged.

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FCF:bm

- 1 - Proj Dir
- 2 - Dep Proj Dir
- 3 - Dir DAP
- 4 - [redacted]
- 5 - SO
- 6 - Commo
- 7 - Ops
- 8 - Ops chren
- 9 - RI

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